

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of acquiring vehicle data from a vehicle data bus, the method responsive to the execution of a telematics application on a local telematics unit, the application including requests for vehicle parameter data, the method comprising the steps:

5 accessing a local vehicle library, in response to the request for vehicle data, the local vehicle library carrying out the steps comprising
 retrieving vehicle data bus information from a database;
 extracting vehicle data from the vehicle data bus using the vehicle data bus information, the vehicle data corresponding to the requests for vehicle parameter
10 data;
 interpreting the retrieved vehicle data; and
 providing the interpreted data to the telematics application to satisfy the request for vehicle data.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of retrieving comprises:

 establishing a wireless link to a remote server;
 accessing a vehicle database with the remote server; and
5 downloading vehicle data bus information to the local vehicle library from the remote database.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the step of using further comprises passing the vehicle data bus information to a protocol driver.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
 the application program comprises a vehicle diagnostics application program.

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5. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions which, when executed, cause a telematics control unit to:

- retrieve vehicle data bus information from a remote database;
- use the vehicle data bus information to extract vehicle data from the vehicle data bus, the vehicle data corresponding to telematics application requests for vehicle parameter data;
- interpret the retrieved vehicle data; and
- provide the interpreted data to the telematics application to satisfy the request for vehicle data.

6. A vehicle data acquisition system for extracting vehicle data from a vehicle data bus for telematics applications, the vehicle data acquisition system comprising:

- a remote telematics unit comprising
 - a server; and
 - a vehicle database running on the server, the vehicle database comprising vehicle-specific data bus architecture information,
- a local telematics unit, the local telematics unit comprising
 - a controller,
 - an application program running on the controller and comprising at least one vehicle data request,
 - at least one library interposed between the application program and the vehicle data bus, each library comprising
 - a data retriever,
 - a data interpreter, and
 - a wireless link responsive to the data retriever for establishing a network connection to the remote server, the link providing a data download path for transferring the data bus architecture information to the local telematics unit.

7. A vehicle data acquisition system according to claim 6 wherein:

- the retriever is operative, in response to the data bus information, to retrieve vehicle data responsive to the generic vehicle data request and pass the retrieved data to the data interpreter, the data interpreter operative to translate the retrieved data into a format useable by the application program.

8. A vehicle data acquisition system according to claim 6 wherein the application program comprises:
a vehicle diagnostics application program.

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